Junior Telecom Officers, Telecom Technical Assistants and Motor Drivers for Haryana Circle.

E-Mail Facilities in North-Eastern Region

2032. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted to provide E-mail facilities in the country;

(b) the number of cities in the country particularly in the States of NER where said facility has been provided; and

(c) the details of percentage of said facilities available in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) E-Mail facility in the country can be provided by any Internet Service Provider (ISP) or E-mail operator licensed by Department of Telecom (DOT). Since 1994, licenses for E-mail service were granted by DOT. Since announcement of Internet policy in Nov. 1998, licences have been granted to ISPs who are providing Internet Services. E-mail facility is a part of Internet Service.

(b) and (c) The access to Internet is available to the subscribers throughout the country on Local call basis excepting andaman & Nicobar Islands and Leh. The following are the Internet modes working in the North East Region:—

1. Shilong
2. Agartala
3. Guwahati
4. Silchar

Pending Application for STD/ISD/PCO in Meghalaya

2033. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of STD/ISD/PCO booths functioning in the

various cities of Meghalaya at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of booths out of them which are not functioning;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for installation of said booths in the State, district-wise; and

(d) the reasons therefor and by when these applications are likely to be processed and approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of STD/ISD/PCO booths functioning in the Meghalaya State, district-wise, is as under:—

Name of district	STD/ISD/PCO functioning
East Khasi Hills	331
West Khasi Hills	3
Ri-Bhoi	12
Jaintla Hills	36
West Garo Hills	32
East Garo Hills	7
South Garo Hills	1

(b) All the above booths are functioning.

(c) The number of applications lying pending for installation of said booths in the State, district-wise, is as given below:—

Name of district	Number of applications pending
East Khasi Hills	71
Ri-Bhoi	2
West Garo Hills	6
South Garo Hills	6

(d) The applications were pending due to delay in holding of allotment committee meetings. Recently the PCO allotment policy has been revised to make available STD/ISD/PCO freely. All the pending applications are to be cleared progressively by March, 2000 subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling other conditions.

Replacement of Telephone Sets of Subscribers

2034. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kurebhar telephone exchange in Sultanpur had recently caught fire requiring telephone sets provided to subscribers to be replaced;

(b) if so, whether the telephone sets of all the subscribers have since been replaced;

(c) if not, the details of those whose sets have not been replaced alongwith the reasons therefor particularly from the village Chamurkha;

(d) whether local Telecom officials including S.D.O. are demanding money from subscribers for replacing their sets;

(e) if so, whether Government would get the matter investigated by an independent agency; and

(f) by when Government would replace the telephone sets of all the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir, there was an electric contact of 220 V. Power supply due to falling of electric wire on the subscribers loop of Telephone No. 66222 of Chamurkha village in Kurebhar exchange on 18.9.99 and there was minor damage to exchange equipment i.e. two line cards,one TIC card. There telephone instruments were affected and all the three affected telephone instruments and damaged cards were replaced within a week time.

(b) & (c) Yes Sir, three telephone instruments have been replaced including the telephone instruments of village Chamuri (Chamurkha).